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## Panther- April 2007- Vol. LXXXV No. 20

Prairie View A&M University

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# THE PANTHER

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

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Address: PO Box 519, MS 1020  
Prairie View, TX 77446  
Telephone: 936-261-1352  
E-mail: panther@pvamu.edu

Volume 85, Issue 20

## Mayor Bill White speaks on leadership



By Evan White, The Panther

**Houston on the move:** Mayor Bill White urged students to be a part of Houston's future as it is a city with a bright and promising future.

By Jerrell Allen  
Panther Staff

Mayor Bill White encouraged students to make Houston a city that pushes the United States forward in his speech "Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today" last Wednesday in the Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium.

White, who has served as mayor of Houston since 2004, is a member of the Democratic Party. He has also served on the board of directors for the North American Reliability Council, and was chairman for both the World Trade Division and the Environmental Advisory Committee for the Greater Houston Partnership.

He has also served on the board of directors for the Houston Quality of Life Coalition.

After a brief opening from Mr. and Miss Prairie View and spirited performances from both the Prairie View Brass Ensemble and Tashay Sias, White spoke for several minutes on his personal experiences in leadership.

Mayor White defined leadership as dedication to public service and keeping a good public reputation.

White, who has worked in Houston for several months to improve road conditions and drainage in the inner-Houston areas, was put to the ultimate test in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For his leadership during those tragic events, White was awarded the 2007 John F. Kennedy "Profiles

in Courage" Award.

Mayor White shared his thoughts on the future of Houston and opportunities for the future of Texas.

He touched on the impact students can have on the future, and the importance of public service.

"Houston is the great city of opportunity. We must build a broad coalition of people to move this state forward," said White.

His tone was optimistic when he mentioned the values that Houston has held sacred.

He assured students that Houston could be a city that could bring the United States forward.

Pat King, a business management major, said, "I think he gave me a good insight for the betterment of my future. Being able to hear him speak was quite an honor."

Other students were disappointed with the modest crowd.

James Durant, a senior political science major, said, "I wasn't disappointed because if just one person is getting this information, it's a good thing. Each one, teach one."

Student reactions to White's speech were positive.

White gave students insight into the future of public development projects in Houston, even mentioned possible projects which would affect the campus of Prairie View.

President Wright expressed his gratitude for White's attendance and closed the event after a presentation by Lindsay Slay.

## NY Times senior editor visits PV

By Ashley Slayton  
Panther Staff

Kathleen McElroy, senior editor of the New York Times, shared the secrets of her success with communications majors Friday, April 13, in Hilliard Hall.

McElroy, a Houston native, has worked for the New York Times since 1991 and served as deputy sports editor, associate managing editor and editor of the dining section.

Her success plan included commitment, responsibility, believing in your own abilities and making good decisions.

"Being in journalism is like making a million value judgments," said McElroy.

McElroy previously worked for The National, Newsday, Austin American-Statesman, Huntsville Item and Bryan/College Station Eagle. She obtained her B.A. in broadcast journalism from Texas A&M University.

As she spoke about ethical writing, the first step she advised students to make was figuring out everything they knew and didn't.

"You don't have to be objective. Nobody has to be objective," McElroy stressed. "All you gotta do is be fair."

She advised that students volunteer to write stories for out of town newspapers and explained that journalism is the basis for any career in the media industry.

"I hope students realize that journalism is a worthy profession," said McElroy.

"If you apply good sense, dignity and fairness to everything you do, you'll feel good about yourself and that can only benefit journalism and the world."

## Omegas reach out to Virginia Tech

By Ashley Slayton  
Panther Staff

The Rho Theta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. hosted a drive to collect cards from the student body and faculty to send Virginia Tech students, Tuesday, April 17, in the MSC lobby.

Thirty-two students were killed and 15 were wounded in what is being called the deadliest school massacre in U.S. history.

Jullian Keggins, a senior agriculture major and member of Omega Psi Phi, said the inspiration to do the drive stemmed from the moment he woke up.

"That was the first thing on my mind this morning. We wanted to let the students and families know somebody's thinking of them," said Keggins.

He said the turnout had been very good and explained that people's conscience played a major role in filling out the card.

"People have been tempted to walk away but their conscience won't let them. It has been every bit of what I expected," he said.

The cards will be sent to the Eta Lambda chapter of the organization and the members of the fraternity at Virginia Tech will pass out the cards with words of inspiration to students.

Antyon James, a senior mechanical engineering major and member of Omega Psi Phi, suggested that the Prairie View campus get involved with the effort.

"The first step," said James, "is making people aware of the incident."

The organization plans to repeat the event Wednesday, April 18, and their efforts to help will not end there.

"I plan to send an article to ABC 13. We want to let them know that the campus is involved and the Prairie View family is concerned," Keggins said.

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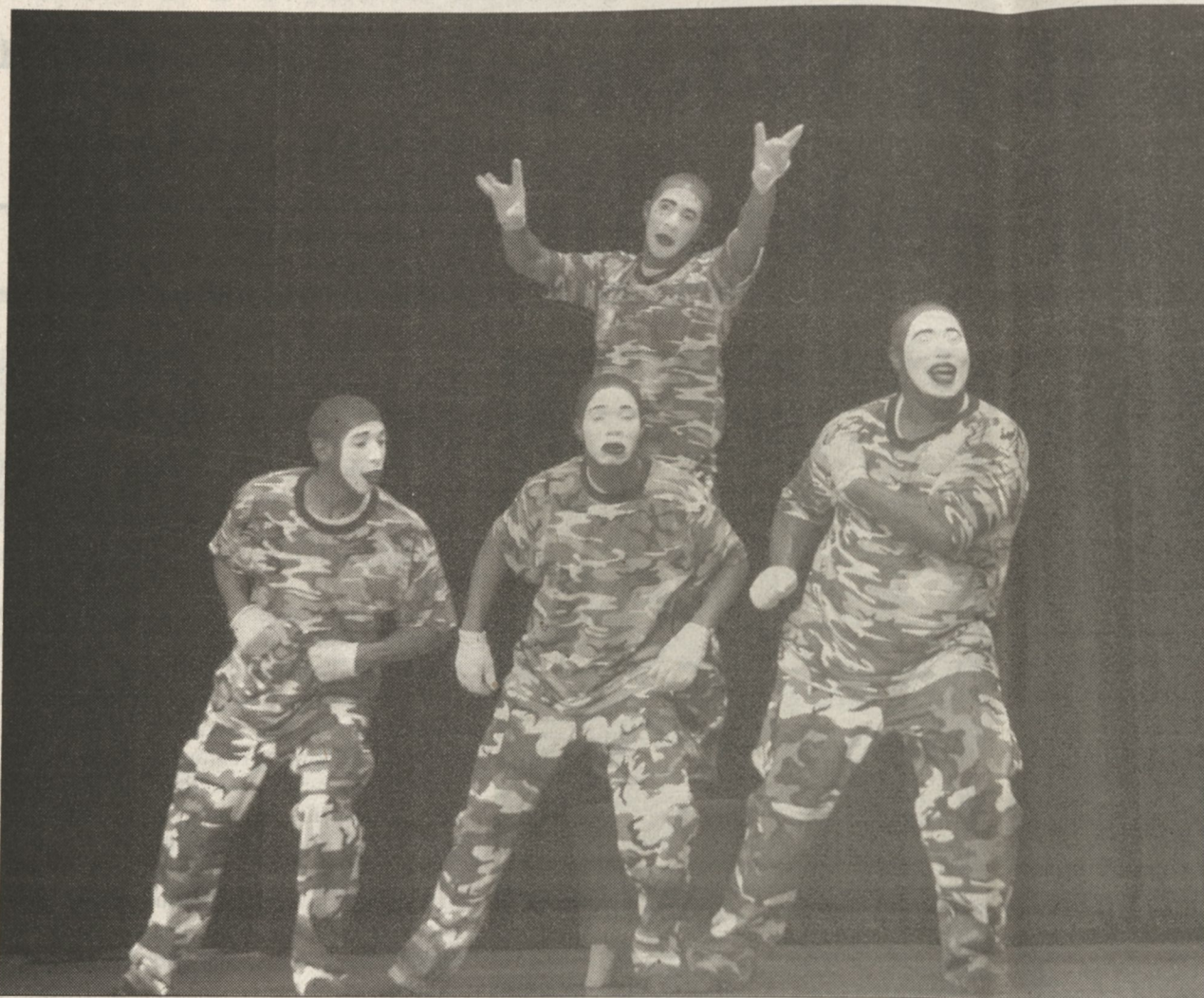
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## Prairie View Mime Ministry's powerful message leaves students, faculty inspired



By Evan White, The Panther

**Strength beyond what I see:** Prairie View Mime Ministry gives an animated performance for the student body during their "Soldiers for Christ" program in the MSC Auditorium Tuesday.

By Ratchel Lewis  
Panther Staff

PV Mime Ministry performed for the student body during the "Soldiers for Christ" program in the MSC auditorium, Tuesday, April 10.

Baptist Student Movement set the atmosphere and kicked off the show with a song selection, and the night proceeded with an enthusiastic Russell Hutchinson Jr. as the host.

The program consisted primarily of mime and spiritual dances with a fusion of traditional hymns and contemporary gospel.

The audience witnessed the formal induction of two new members, freshmen Adrian Richards and Willy Rhodes, into the PV Mime Ministry with a skit that portrayed the physical burden of earthly chains and the spiritual release of letting God order one's steps.

"I thought the show was very inspirational, it sent a powerful message to the audience," said sophomore business major Britney Denman.

The organization was founded in the spring of 2004 by seniors Justin Alonzo Titus, Jamell Fields, DeAndre' Marcel Williams, La Quincy Arnold, and Rickie Dodd.

However, PV Mime Ministry has just recently been acknowledged on the Prairie View A&M campus as of November 1, 2006 as an official student organization.

President and co-founder Titus has been involved in mime ministry since the 10th grade when he was a part of a mime group in Dallas known as Genesis. After coming to Prairie View he met Williams, the current sergeant at arms, "and it just got bigger," said Williams.

"I never knew that ministering to people non verbally could affect them as much as it has done," Williams replied as he told how his

association with the group has influenced his life religiously.

"Males on this campus don't have the best reputations, I wanted to shine a positive light," said Titus; as he acknowledged the organization's sister group, One Accord.

Although these men have been recently acknowledged, they have ministered in churches, performed in multiple talent shows, pageants, at the PV choice awards, and at numerous founder's day programs.

In addition, the group has been selected as the opening act for the Kelly Price gospel show on May 11 at the Harvest Town church in Houston. On April 23, the group will have the opportunity to travel to Florida to attend the National Church Convention of America.

"My vision is, when I come back 20 years from now, it will be going on strong giving the students something positive," said Titus.

## Contestants share ideas at Purple and Gold Soiree

By Whitney Harris  
Panther Staff

Prairie View students were offered the opportunity to meet the 2007-08 Miss Prairie View contestants April 11 in the Memorial Student Center Lounge.

"The Purple and Gold Soiree is the first time Prairie View's student body is exposed to the contestants in the pageant," said reigning queen Lindsey Slay. "Because a pageant [winner] is forced to serve as an ambassador because they're not voted on, it is important to give the student body an opportunity to know the contestants on a slightly more personal level."

Another focus of the soiree was to give the contestants a chance to improve their speaking skills and become more aware of their chosen platforms.

Each contestant is required to decide upon a platform, or goal to achieve while reigning as Miss Prairie View if selected.

"Also, we are going to open the floor for questions and answers so the contestants can improve for the interview portion of the pageant," Slay said.

All of the contestants used personal inspirations to help choose their platforms and their reasoning

behind entering the Miss Prairie View pageant.

"I know I have a story to tell," said junior contestant Angel Porter, "No one is better than anyone else, so I want to promote Student Empowerment- mentally, physically and spiritually."

"I've done two previous pageants and lost in both. I have really big dreams, and if I don't take actions, they will always be dreams," junior contestant Jaime Jackson said, "Fear to continue opens the door for failure."

Whether preparing with current events or school history, the five contestants have worked diligently to ready themselves for the big pageant.

"In this pageant, we have to stay on top of our game because we don't know what they might ask," said senior contestant Ashley Gaddis. "The judges want to know our intelligence."

The 2007 Miss Prairie View pageant takes place April 18 in the Opal-Johnson Auditorium at 7 p.m. prominent alumni will be in attendance.

"This university provides opportunity and hope to its students. If you can grasp everything the school has to offer you will be guaranteed success," said biology major Christiana Harris.



By Evan White, The Panther

**Show me what you've got:** Miss PV contestant Jamie Jackson explains her platform to students at the soiree.

## Zydeco Festival brings LA to PV

By Richard White  
Panther Staff

Despite inclement weather, the Zydeco Festival, sponsored by Campus Activity Board on April 14 still proved a success with the student body.

The menu for the festival was crawfish, turkey legs, and sausage on a stick. All of these selections were available to any student who had a student ID. Any plate remaining was available for a small fee.

CAB director Tomaneka Smith said, "With the Zydeco Festival, it continues to bring diversity to the campus." This year's Zydeco Festival was the second time this event

was held. "We had a great turnout," said Smith, in fact the event brought in packs of students from all over the campus.

The entertainment for the afternoon was Houston's own, J Paul & The Zydeco New Breeds, who have been together for eleven years. The band brought a different, but refreshing sound to the Zydeco Festival, and to the campus of Prairie View.

The event was something different for students to enjoy, and gave students on campus during the weekend something to do.

"The Zydeco Festival was a wonderful way to spend Saturday afternoon," said freshman Tiffany Freeman. "The food and dancing was a great first time experience."

## Students get interviews, information at College of Education Career Fair

By Chantel Gage  
Panther Staff

The 27th annual Teacher's Education Career Fair was held Wednesday, April 11, in the Memorial Student Center ballroom.

The event was sponsored by the college of education and had over 131 participating school districts.

"The purpose of this career fair is for students to learn about their career finances, expectations, and what to look for in post-gradu-

ation," stated Dr. Martha Bailey, job fair coordinator.

Bailey advised student teachers to bring a professional portfolio, resume and examples of lesson plans to the job fair.

Tirika Caldwell, senior education major said, "the fair is so helpful because the school districts let you know what they want in a hire and give out valuable information that you cannot receive on campus."

According to Bailey, there is a 70 percent chance that a student will be given an interview. In

some instances students may even be hired on the spot while attending the career fair.

Sonya Pintor, senior interdisciplinary studies major, benefited from the career fair by, "receiving the opportunity to have an interview with one of the school districts I was interested in. All I did was bring my resume and reference letters."

Daniel Anderson, junior human performance major said, "The career fair serves as a great tool for seniors and juniors to get their feet wet and learn about opportunities that are available in this field."



By Evan White, The Panther

**Planning for the future:** Students meet with recruiters from various Texas school districts regarding career opportunities.

panther@pvamu.edu



## Gunman kills 32 at Virginia Tech before committing suicide

By Brian Murphy  
Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Virginia (AP) — A gunman opened fire in a Virginia Tech dormitory and then in a classroom building across campus two hours later Monday, killing 32 people in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history. The gunman committed suicide, bringing the death toll to 33.

Students said there were no public-address announcements or other warnings on campus until an e-mail more than two hours after the first shooting of two people. By then, the gunman had struck again, killing 31 others, including himself.

Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said authorities at first believed that the shooting at the dormitory was a domestic dispute and mistakenly thought the gunman had fled the campus.

"We had no reason to suspect any other incident was going to occur," he said.

Investigators offered no motive for the attack. The gunman's name was not immediately released, and it was not known if he was a student. At least 26 people were injured.

Earlier in the day, the police chief said he believed there was only one gunman, but at an evening news conference, he and the university president said they were still investigating whether the shootings were related.

The shootings spread panic and confusion on campus, with witnesses reporting students jumping out classroom windows to escape the gunfire. Students and faculty members carried out some of the wounded themselves, without waiting for ambulances to arrive. A police command unit with flak jackets and assault rifles swarmed the campus.

Police said doors in the classroom building were chained shut from the inside.

"Schools should be places of safety, sanctuary and learning," President George W. Bush said Monday afternoon. "When that sanctuary is violated, the impact is felt in every American classroom in every American community."

Buckingham Palace said Queen Elizabeth II was "shocked and saddened" after hearing of the shootings. She had planned to visit Virginia in May to mark the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement.

Monday's bloodbath took place at opposite sides of the 2,600-acre campus, beginning at about 7:15 a.m. at West Ambler Johnston, a coed residence hall that houses 895 people, and continuing about two hours later at Norris Hall, an engineering building.

"Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," Steger said.

Steger said the university decided to rely on e-mail and other electronic means to notify members of the university, but with 11,000 people driving onto campus in the morning, it was difficult to reach everyone. He said the university began telephoning resident advisers in the dorms to notify them and sent people to knock on doors to spread the word.

A law enforcement official,

speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was incomplete, said the gunman had two pistols and multiple clips of ammunition.

Police said they were still investigating the shooting at the dorm when they got word of gunfire at the classroom building.

Some students bitterly questioned why the gunman was able to strike a second time.

Students and Laura Wedin, a student programs manager at Virginia Tech, said the first notification they got of the shootings came in an e-mail at 9:26 a.m., more than two hours after the first shooting.

The e-mail had few details. It said: "A shooting incident occurred at West Amber Johnston earlier this morning. Police are on the scene and are investigating." The message warned students to be cautious and contact police about anything suspicious.

At least 26 people were being treated at three area hospitals for gunshot wounds and other injuries, authorities said. Their exact conditions were not disclosed, but at least one was sent to a trauma center and six were in surgery, authorities said.

Edmund Henneke, associate dean of engineering, said he had just read the e-mail advisory regarding the first shooting when he heard gunfire. Moments later, police commando members rushed him and others downstairs "but the doors were chained and padlocked from the inside." They left the building through a construction area that had not been locked.

Henneke said it is unfair to criticize the school over the delay in warning.

"People are absolutely making too much of that. You do what you can," Henneke said. "We have a huge campus. You have to close down a small town and you can't close down every way in or out."

Before Monday, the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history took place in 1966 at the University of Texas, where Charles Whitman climbed to the 28th-floor observation deck of a clock tower and opened fire. He killed 16 people before he was gunned down by police.

Previously, the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history was in Killeen, Texas, in 1991, when George Hennard drove his pickup into a Luby's Cafeteria and shot 23 people to death, then himself.

Police said there had been bomb threats on campus over the past two weeks, but said they have not determined a link to the shootings.

It was the second time in less than a year that the campus was closed because of a shooting.

In August 2006, the opening day of classes was canceled and the campus closed when an escaped jail inmate allegedly killed a hospital guard off campus and fled to the Tech area. A sheriff's deputy involved in the manhunt was killed on a trail just off campus.

The accused gunman, William Morva is currently facing capital murder charges.

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# THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University



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# Why I denounced my letters

The purpose of this article is not to judge or condemn anyone. My intent is to enlighten the true Christians who are currently members or considering joining a Greek Letter Organization (GLO).

I recently stepped down from my position as president of the Eta Gamma chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. I completely denounced my membership and affiliation with the organization. It was not an easy decision to make, but it was necessary for me to continue in my spiritual growth.

The road to my denunciation began with the poem "Invictus." This poem is memorized and recited by a majority of GLOs. The last few lines always concerned me, but I allowed my ambitions of being in the fraternity to blind me. It says, "I am the Master of my fate; I am the Captain of my soul." Shouldn't it say "Jesus is the Master of my fate; Jesus is the Captain of my soul?" How can I profess to be a true believer yet recite and condone this poem? In the beginning of the poem, there is a line that says, "I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul." What soul can't God conquer? In Matthew 10:28 Jesus says, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." I thank whatever gods may be? That is outright endorsement of polytheism which brings me to my next point, idolatry.

The Bible says in Exodus 20:3-4, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth." Webster's dictionary defines idolatry as the worship of idols, and idols as an image of deity used as an object of worship; a person or thing that is adored or revered. Many organizations are represented by and associate themselves with such images as: rabbits, the sphinx, the centaur, dogs, apes, ivy leaves, doves, etc. These images and other symbols can be seen on their paraphernalia, clothing, jewelry, tattoos, and branded in their skin. They aren't just some random logo. These images are symbolic and have meaning within the organizations. Can anyone in an organization dispute that they don't adore or reverence, these images? If you're in disbelief, go before another organization seriously mocking or disrespecting their symbolic image and see the reaction you get. Let's put idolatry into perspective. No respectful person would put a picture of their ex-girlfriend or boyfriend up in their room for their current girlfriend or boyfriend to see, because it would result in jealousy and conflict. You may not be bowing down before the picture in worship, but you would dispose of it out of respect for the other person in the relationship. Exodus 20: 5 describes God to be a jealous God. By reverencing, adoring, and deifying these idol images you disrespect God and his commandment. We are more faithful and show more respect towards our girlfriends or boyfriends than we do to God.

I Corinthians 6: 9-10 says, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicator, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God." After reading this scripture I seriously began to question if my affiliation with a GLO could be considered idolatry according to God's standards. Many may say, "I don't worship my organization." To worship is to reverence, pay homage, love, admire, praise, etc. What do you think you are doing when you recite the organizations hymn or chant

and dance around in the name of the organization? If that's not reverencing, paying homage, and praising then what is? Webster's dictionary defines a hymn as a song of worship of God; any ode or praise. When you sing the hymn you are definitely not worshipping God or praising him. Who you are worshipping and praising is that particular organization. All GLOs have rituals they recite during their initiation. I recently attended a seminar where they exposed numerous GLO rituals. In these rituals, the founders took scripture from the bible and put their own twist on it to suit the organization; declaring that they were

**"The road to my  
denunciation  
began with the poem  
'Invictus.'"**

founded upon "Christian principles." Those aren't Christian principles, they are anti-Christian. Revelation 22: 18-19 says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that were written in this book, And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that were written in this book." There are numerous other GLO rituals that add to and take away from the scriptures. These rituals approved by the organization's national offices acknowledge and speak of Greek gods. Every member of the organization, undergraduate and graduate level, is exposed to these blasphemous rituals. The really interesting, yet harsh reality is that most members of GLOs don't even know what their own ritual says. They probably never saw it and certainly don't own a copy of it. They recited it once upon a time and completely forgot about it. You may say, "It meant nothing to me, I didn't even think about it, or I just said it because I had to and everyone else was saying it." Our words carry weight and can be very dangerous. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are found in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Therefore, we must watch what we say.

Joshua 24:15-16 says, "And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my home, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods." As Christians, we can't serve God on our own terms or when it's convenient for us. In St. Mark 12:30 Jesus says, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." We cannot do God's will some of the time; we have to do God's will all of the time. The question is whether it is God's will that you be in a GLO? Many say, "I prayed to God for my letters and my prayers were answered." Proverbs 15:29 says, "The Lord is far from the wicked, but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." If you weren't in a righteous state in the sight of the Lord when you prayed then the scripture says that he didn't hear you. GLOs are surrounded by false doctrine, anti-Christian principles, and deeply rooted in worldly things. Why would it be God's will for you to partake in such organizations?

There exists in this world two kingdoms; the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. You can't belong to or operate in both kingdoms. You are either a member of one or the other. Romans 6:16 says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." A servant is a slave, and you can become a slave to your sins. When you are at humpday dancing to music that is not of God but of Satan, when you are at parties where the Spirit of the Lord is nowhere to be found but where the presence of Satan is heavily concentrated, or when you are out getting drunk; you become a slave to that sin and that sinful environment. St. Matthew 6:24 says, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." The question at hand is, "Who are you going to serve, God or Satan."

We are all born into sin and fall short of God's expectations on a daily basis. I am no different. I can admit that I used to drink, go dance around to Satan's music at humpday, listen to worldly music, and a whole slew of other things, but I made the decision to follow and serve the Lord Jesus Christ with my whole heart. I recognized that there was a serious need for change. I'm not trying to say that now I'm perfect and that I never sin, but it is my goal and mission to be just like Christ. That is what Christianity is all about, isn't it? Some may say, "It is impossible to be like Jesus. He was perfect and we are not and will never be spiritually perfect as he was." St. Matthew 5:48 says, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

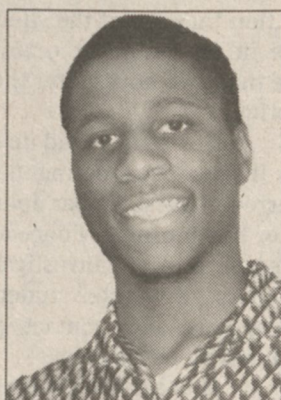
If after reading this article you felt like you needed to make some changes in your life or it made you second guess your membership or interest in a GLO; that's probably God's Holy Spirit convicting you. Listen and ask for guidance and I am certain that the answer will be revealed to you.

-Asad Abdul-Salaam

## PURPLE & GOLD POLL

By Dana Polk  
Panther Staff

**What were your expectations of  
Prairie View as a historically black  
university before attending, and  
how do you feel now?**



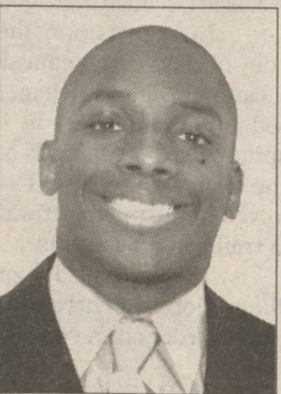
"I had no expectations before attending PVAMU. Now, I want to do whatever I can to help develop the community of PV."  
**Harris D. Brown**  
Junior  
Architecture



"I wasn't sure what to expect. I thought the atmosphere would be harsh and unkind. Now, I think PV provides a family-like atmosphere."  
**Jamie Jackson**  
Junior  
Communications



Prior to attending PVAMU, I didn't expect it to be challenging. I learned it would be easy for me to be accepted. Although, it seemed easy to get in, it's hard to get out.  
**Chrsitiana Harrison**  
Junior  
Biology



"I expected a lot of partying and disorganization, because I listened to what people said. Now, I expect PV to shape me as a better human and have a lot of opportunities available for me. I'm glad I made PV my home away from home."  
**Terrell Moore**  
Freshman  
Biology

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today!**

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# Lady Panthers down, but not out



By Richard White, The Panther

**Bring the heat:** Analisa Gonzales prepares to strikeout the batter, while the team remains defensive.

**Whitney Harris**  
Panther Staff

The Lady Panthers pulled off two losses and a win from their three-game home stand last weekend against Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Despite the weather, the Lady Panthers played to give themselves another conference win.

In game one, the Lions finished 4-3 over Prairie View. Amberly Fuller had two hits and two RBIs, and Analisa Gonzales had five strikeouts.

The Lady Panthers were determined to win the second game, and they did just that during the final game of the double-header, winning 5-2. The Golden Lions opened the game with a run and two hits against winning pitcher Gonzales.

Pine Bluff scored again in the third inning, taking the 2-0 advantage. The Panthers refused to be defeated and decided to fight back. In the fourth, Davis scored on an error, and with that, Prairie

View began to gain momentum. Prairie View received the remainder of its runs in the fifth inning and eventually went on to win the game.

Standouts for the Lady Panthers were Destiney Davis with two runs, Amberly Fuller with two hits, a stolen base by pinch runner Shantae Guy, and Gonzales with three strikeouts.

The third game of the weekend seemed to be a little bit more of a tougher match, as the Lady Panthers fell to Pine Bluff with a score of 6-4. Due to some bad officiating the Lady Panthers had to rely on themselves to win the match.

Standouts for the game were Nikki Lilly who had three hits, two runs, and a stolen base. Kudos goes out to Ahreona Hightower who took many blows throughout the game, but refused to give up.

The Lady Panthers still have a chance to make the conference tournament. Their next home game will be against Texas A&M Corpus Christi April 24 at 3 p.m.

## Spring Schedule

### Baseball

vs. Texas South.	4/21	1:00 p.m.
vs. Texas South.	4/22	1:00 p.m.
vs. Southern	4/28	1:00 p.m.
vs. Southern	4/29	1:00 p.m.

### Softball

@ Texas South.	4/20	3:00 p.m.
@ Texas South.	4/21	12:00 p.m.
vs. TAMU- CC	4/24	3:00 p.m.

### Track & Field

@ SWAC Indoor & Outdoor	4/19	12:00p.m.
@ SWAC Indoor & Outdoor	4/20	9:00 a.m.
@ SWAC Indoor & Outdoor	4/21	9:00 a.m.

### Tennis

@SWAC Cham.	4/20	2 p.m.
@SWAC Cham.	4/21	9 a.m.
@SWAC Cham.	4/22	10 a.m.

## Tennis team prepares for conference tourney

**Richard White**  
Panther Staff

The Prairie View men's and women's tennis team will head to Alexandria, La Thursday April 19th to battle for bragging rights and the 2007 SWAC championship.

The women go into the tournament seeded second and will face off against Alcorn State to begin their first round of play. If or when the ladies win that match, they will face off against the winner of the match between Grambling State & Jackson State. The two teams will face each other at championship game.

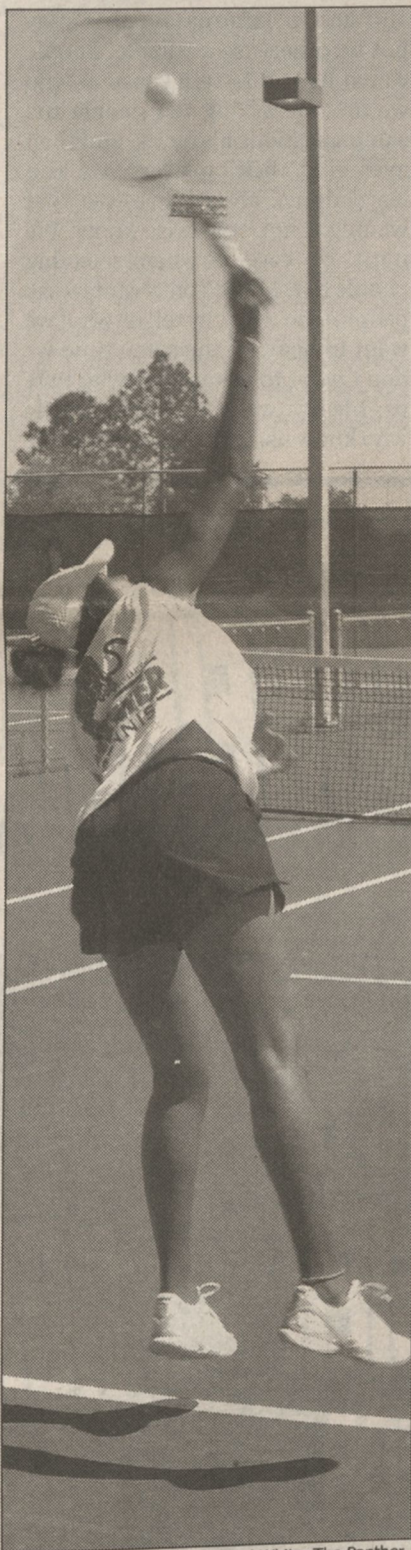
Freshman Camille Whittingham says, "I'm a little nervous, anxious, and excited since it's my first year, but I'm ready for the championships."

On the men's side, they are seeded first and have a first round bye. They will face off against the winner of the match between Grambling State & Jackson State, and then the finals will be played Saturday morning.

John Cochran Jr., head coach of the men's and women's teams says "both teams are looking to make history." If or when the tennis teams win the SWAC championship, it will be the first time a men's and women's team of the same sport has won the SWAC championship.

Both teams are experienced in their craft, the men's team has four players from their 2005 SWAC championship team. The women's team is young, but very talented with plenty of experience.

Cochran says one thing he has noticed from day until now is, "The team has come together, they are a lot tighter, and they are starting to peak." Which is nothing but good news. With the support of Prairie View, anything is possible. The tennis teams continue to stay humble, but have their heads held high to bring home the conference title."



By Richard White, The Panther

**Serve it up:** Houston native Melissa Guerrier scorchs the ball to her opponents.

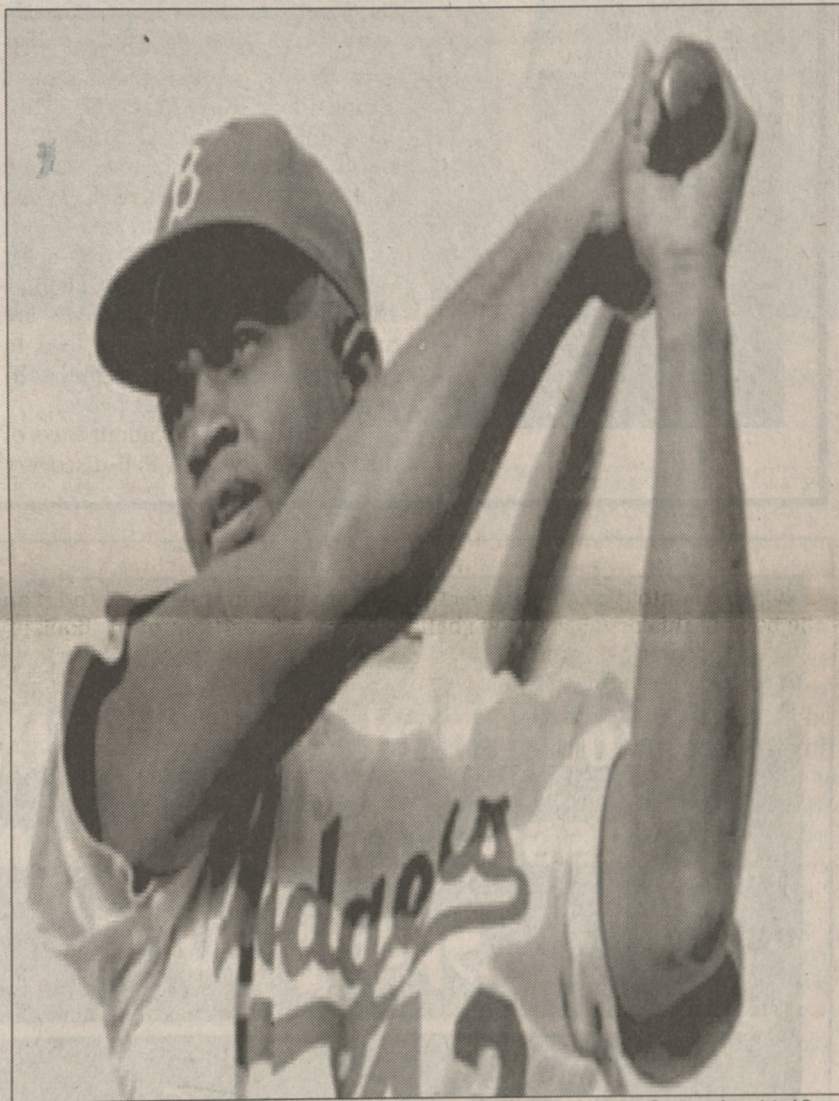
## He sowed a seed, millions reaped the benefits

**Richard White**  
Panther Staff

This past weekend was the 60th Anniversary of Jackie Robinson not only breaking into Major League Baseball, but breaking the color barrier, which opened the door to millions of athletes all across America. In honor of this date, and his memory, more than 200 Major League Baseball players honored Jackie Robinson by wearing his number, 42.

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born Jan. 31, 1919 in Cairo Georgia, and passed away Oct. 24, 1972. During his baseball career he managed a .311 batting average, was voted 1947 rookie of the Year, 1949 National League MVP, and helped his team go on to win the World Series.

When he retired, he was selected for the Hall of Fame his first year of eligibility. Robinson passed away before he got to see what seed he really sowed. Although African Americans make up eight percent of the Major League Baseball population, we must not give up hope. Many African American athletes are currently writing their name in the history books, and some will hopefully become heroes, but Jackie Robinson is a legend that will never be forgotten.



Courtesy Associated Press

**Greatest of all time:** Jackie Robinson was elected into the Baseball hall of fame on his first bid.

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# Is Prairie View obsessed with Greek Life?

By Ashley Slayton  
Panther Staff

There's no denying that Greek life is a major factor at historically black universities. Many people join organizations hoping to experience an epiphany or change.

The words of various Greek organizations' songs even say, "I know I've been changed." But is this change for the better? Have Greek organizations become exclusive clubs which people long to join? And most importantly, have the members of these organizations

become idolized?

"Fraternities and sororities are not just social organizations, they're business organizations," said Endira Hawkins, member of the Zeta Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, as she spoke about the hype associated with Greek organizations. "The most negative aspect of joining an organization would be that people stereotype a certain organization to be a certain way. You should still have your individuality."

Over the last century, organizations have experienced many changes including rapid growth and widespread recognition. This recognition comes with

advantages and disadvantages.

Kyle-Michael Dain, a member of the Delta Theta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma said, "If people are going to look up to you and idolize you, make sure that it's for the qualities you represent. If you're going to idolize something idolize that. Don't idolize someone's jacket or the letters they wear."

These days, pageants, picnics, parties and even charity events are Greek oriented. "I think it's sort of a tradition that college entertainment centers around Greeks because there's almost a type of family atmosphere at HBCUs. Everybody has the elite in their family. For some people, the Greeks

are the elite," said Kenneth Grimes, a junior architecture major.

Dain believes that the positive aspects of joining any organization are outweighed by the negative aspects. Among the positive aspects are: community service, networking, the opportunity to serve as a role model and "the best part is it helps you mature," said Dain.

Most Greek organizations were founded as social, professional, honor or service groups. Someone once said, "Uneducated people join gangs. Educated people join fraternities and sororities."

"You can learn something

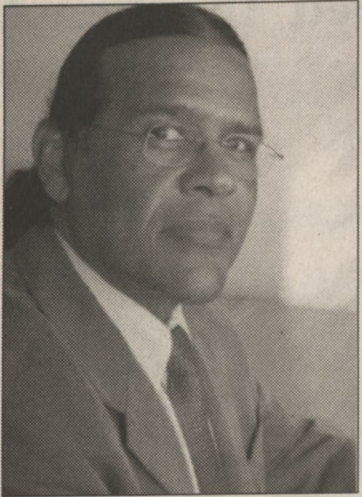
from everybody in all facets of life," said Grimes. "Sometimes gang members are more efficient entrepreneurs than anyone because circumstances have placed them where they are," he continued.

Although popularity is associated with Greek organizations on black campuses, some members believe that the most important thing is remaining true to yourself and the organization's principles.

Hawkins said, "I strongly believe that if you weren't a complete person before you joined a Greek letter organization, you won't be one after. The letters do not, and should not, make the organization or the individual."

## Know Thyself

By Dr Victor Pendleton  
Psychologist, PVAMU  
Counseling Center



Years ago, when I first saw Plato's words, they seemed simplistic. Know myself? How hard is that? I know myself! I never dreamed for one second that I did not know myself. When I did learn who I was, I was blown away. Self-knowledge is useful for self-acceptance and self-change. Differences between who we are and who we think we are lead to hypocrisy. Self-awareness and self-acceptance lead to inner peace.

This essay is about ways of discovering yourself. Self-discovery

can be difficult, if not impossible, to do in isolation. This is because much of who we are may be, hidden from our view, in our subconscious mind. In this essay I discuss two methods of self discovery: self-monitoring and asking others for input.

Self-monitoring involves watching and recording our day-to-day behavior for an extended period of time. This is very similar to keeping a journal or a diary. During the course of our lives our behavior often changes from day to day, month-to-month, year-to-year. By making a habit of writing down our thoughts, feelings and behaviors each day, we create a record of ourselves and our surroundings that

we can learn from at a later time.

Asking others for their input helps us get beyond the limitations of our conscious mind and access information that may not be otherwise available. People watch us and have a sense of who we are. By asking ten people the same questions about us, and then averaging their answers, we can learn things about ourselves that we might not otherwise know. We must be careful when selecting people to ask. We don't want to ask people who will only tell us what we want to hear. At the same time we don't want to ask people who hate us. Ideally, we want to ask people who know us, and who will feel free

to answer our questions honestly and openly. We can increase the likelihood of getting honest and open answers by allowing people to respond anonymously, either through questionnaire or the internet.

Combining our self-assessment with the assessment provided by others gives us a more complete picture of who we are. As the picture becomes clear, we can begin accepting ourselves and using it as a foundation for the person we want to become in the future. Self-knowledge informs us of our strengths and identifies areas where we can make improvements.

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## Local musician makes his bid for stardom

Sean Mitchell  
Panther Staff

Desmond R. Taylor, who sometimes goes by the moniker DT, is an emerging music artist who is trying to enhance his prominence in the industry. The 19 year old Friendswood resident is the CEO and producer of Taylormade Productions and a sophomore student at Prairie View A&M University. Since age 14, Taylor has been enhancing his musical passion through rapping, singing and producing.

"I basically compose and produce original music," Taylor said. "I work with multi-track recording programs, with condenser microphones to produce original Hip-Hop and R&B music."

Taylor lived an hour outside Oklahoma City in Lawton, Okla. before moving to Friendswood with his family and attending college. Having chosen to go to school in Prairie View due to its proximity to the Houston area, Taylor has taken the task of creating his work while at school in his apartment. Taylor's musical passion was evident long before he arrived at college.

"I was 10 or 11 years old in the third grade and my parents bought me a keyboard for Christmas," said Taylor. "I would listen to hit songs and try to imitate them on the keyboard. I also sang in the church choir when I was younger. Plus, throughout high school and junior high school I was a part of an All-State Choir and received a certificate [for my work with them] my senior year in high school."

Given the feedback from his peers and CEOs of other record companies after meeting with them, it seems that Taylor has the potential to make waves within the industry. He certainly has a clear view of where he wants to take his life and doesn't seem locked into his passion for music alone.

"My biggest goal right now is to get my degree," Taylor said. "Being at the school I'm at is actually helpful, since I am learning about the public relations aspect of the hip hop audience," he said.

Taylor is a man about his business, so although he takes joy in the creation of his music he also wants all people to take him seriously as an artist. He believes that the creation of music is not for everyone and should be handled with a certain level of respect.

"I play no games in the studio. Music is fun and should always be, but not everyone can just 'hop on the bandwagon' and think they can produce music all of a sudden. That's one thing that agitates me. Music is a bloodline talent for me and not a fad."

Having been a "military brat," DT moved from place to place and was able to experience many different areas of the country and world. This is likely what gives his work its unique sound.

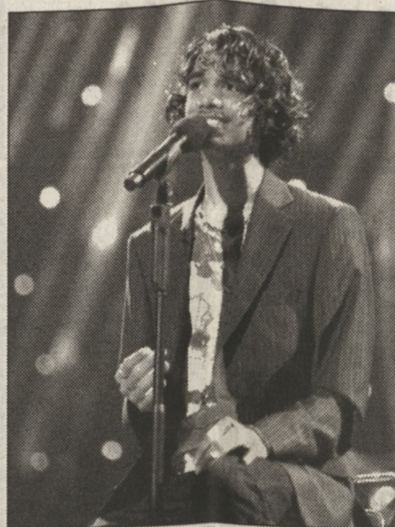
"My music is not just one sound," he said. I can sound like hip hop or make you feel like you are in India one day or Egypt the next. It's also original because I use several snaps and snares to make one beat different from the next."

Taylor's unreleased first album, unofficially titled "No Loose Strings," should reflect this idea. According to DT, the album should sound fully original and have a true hip-hop flavor.

"It's hip-hop, soul and everything that make people love music," he said. "It'll have some tracks with good singing, some with good lyrics because some songs need good lyrics, not just a good beat."

"I do believe I will show I have the tools to be a great talent in the music industry. This album and my music is something that will help me on my way to getting me where I want to be [in life]. I wouldn't be able to do this without the support of my family, friends, people who love music, and God."

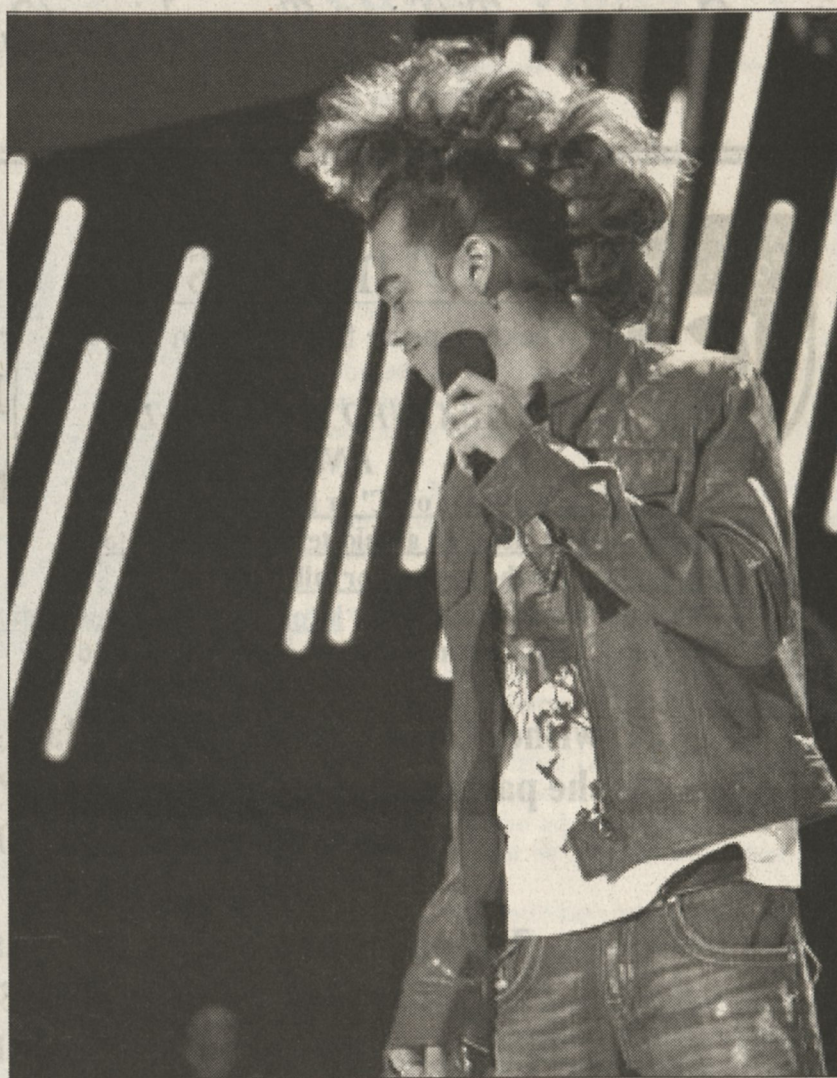
## 'American Idol' continues to captivate millions; bores others



By Heather Corothers  
Panther Staff

Randy, Paula and Simon. If these star-studded names don't ring a bell, then the name "American Idol" surely will. With five successfully completed seasons since 2002, "American Idol" helped the term 'reality TV' reach whole new heights. Since it began, it has given America many new, talented and powerful voices such as Kelly Clarkson, Ruben Studdard, Fantasia, and the newest "American Idol," Carrie Underwood.

Just this week alone, in the heart of the explosive sixth season, Ryan Seacrest announced that the show had received 35 million votes for America's favorites in one night. Why is it such a must-see TV show for millions of viewers every week? It could be the variety of talented vocals that hit the stage each Tuesday and Wednesday night, often with a new targeted genre for the competitors to perfect and make their own. Or, maybe it's the show's unique way of getting America's involvement by letting them be the



Americanidol.com

**Singing with passion: Sanjaya Malakar wows audiences with great performances and exciting hairstyles.**

sole judges of who makes it to the next show, regardless of how the judges feel. However, if you talk to anyone who has ever watched an episode, they would undoubtedly say the most memorable part of the show is Simon Cowell. With his sarcastic humor, witty criticisms, and tell-it-like-it-is attitude, he's a love him or hate him kind of guy, who is perfect for playing the part as the devil's advocate judge.

Donnie Elmo, a visiting student from Remington College, said the lone reason he quit watching the show was, "because of Simon. He's a \*\*\*\*."

However, some people stopped watching for other reasons. Freshman nursing major, Cordelia Alikah, said "after a while, it just got repetitive. The first season was good, and the second season was good, but I got tired of all the one-hit wonders," and moreover, she's just become, "turned off from reality television." More and more people seem to be making similar comments, which makes one wonder, what's keeping those millions of people hooked?

One guess is this season's most talked about contestant, Sanjaya Malakar. What makes him stand out is not powerful vocals, for he has only blown the judges away once or twice this whole season. What does make him stand out is his natural stage presence, ever-changing hair and clothing styles, and his teeny-bopper appeal that becomes more pronounced every

week. It seems he can do no wrong. During the Top 10 episode, he forgot some of the words in his performance of "Bathwater" by No Doubt, but the only thing that America seemed to remember was his rockin' hair style, a pony-tailed mohawk. The judges have cut him down in every way possible, and yet he keeps making it back each week. The show is only down to seven contestants, and he is already getting air-time on shows such as VH1's "Best Week Ever," due to his charismatic stage presence and again, his ever-changing style.

Sophomore Vanequa Warren stated, "I like Sanjaya simply because he already thinks he's a star. It's funny."

Alikah said, "Pre-teens like him because of his curls."

Just a few weeks ago, Alikah's comments seemed to be true when a young, blonde, star-struck pre-teen cried through his entire performance and then cried again when she got to hug the entire panel of contestants, but especially Malakar. She told Ryan that they were all tears of joy.

As the number of contenders left gets smaller and smaller, America wonders whether the elusive Malakar could work his magic another week? Will Simon's criticisms finally catch up with Malakar and open America's ears? And who will make it to that number one spot? Tune in Tuesday to find out.

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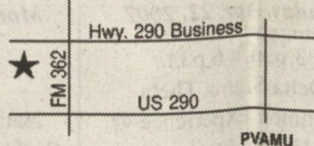
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## 20 QUESTIONS

1. What happened to the Omega's top models?
2. Did they drop the line?
3. Speaking of models, why does every female out here think they are one?
4. Shouldn't they stick to a more profound day job?
5. How many people witnessed New York get dumped again on the season finale' of her show?
6. Didn't she learn her lesson the first two times?
7. Why does the guy who drives the shuttle look like Mr. Brown from the Madea movies?
8. Did anyone see the sign the Omegas had out for the card drive?
9. Did it turn anyone away?
10. Even though it was for a great cause, shouldn't we have more "sympathy" for them?
11. Speaking of that, isn't that pretty sad?
12. All that laughing and joking like that about financial aid might cease huh?
13. By listening to everyone's ring tones, why is everyone a flirt, buying you drinks?
14. Doesn't the officer who checks the IDs after midnight look like the cryptkeeper?
15. Was the cryptkeeper a female?
16. Why did the girls' track team have a series of unfortunate events on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>?
17. Guess we can give it up to karma right?
18. Shouldn't some people not worry about how "fly" they are and fix their black teeth?
19. After Toga 3 Da Mixtape, does anyone on campus "got beef"?
20. What do you think?

This is for entertainment only. The questions submitted are not the views of The Panther. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail us at [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.



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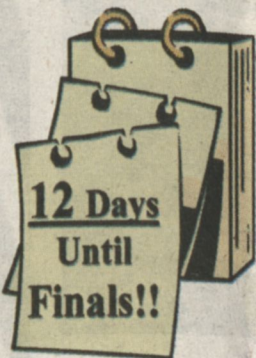
## The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

**THEA INFO YOU SHOULD KNOW**

You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class(es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for the summer or fall 2007.

Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick THEA testing schedule or call 936-261-3610.



UC wishes Good Luck to Rhonda Jackson of Bldg. #40 as she participates in the Omega Psi Phi Scholarship Pageant on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007!!

The phone number for the Testing Office has changed to 936-261-3610!  
Sign up for the Quick THEA at this number!!

University College extends its sincere sympathy to the students, faculty and staff of Virginia Tech.

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## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

### & Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Reanae McNeal  
"Don't Speak My Mother's Name In Vain"

Sunday, April 22, 2007  
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Prairie View A&M University  
New Science Building  
Room A101

Sponsored by  
The P.E.A.C.E. Project @ PVAMU

The PVAMU Department of Public Safety  
(Crime Victims Assistance Program)

The Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
& The Eta Beta Chapter

Reanae is a powerful speaker and candidly talks about her experience with domestic violence as well as being a sexual assault survivor. She takes her audiences on a journey as she breaks her silence interweaved with singing, poetry and stories of those who have overcome domestic violence and sexual assault.

This event is free to the public. For additional information, contact The P.E.A.C.E. Project 936-261-1450.

**African Kings**

From the Dawn of Time

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
**Mr. Prairie View A&M University**  
Scholarship Pageant

Wednesday, April 25, 2007  
Opal Johnson Smith Auditorium  
7:00p.m.

# This Week On The Hill

Thursday, Apr. 19, 2007	Friday, Apr. 20, 2007	Saturday, Apr. 21, 2007	Sunday, Apr. 22, 2007	Monday, Apr. 23, 2007	Tuesday, Apr. 24, 2007	Wednesday, Apr. 25, 2007
<p>5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Classy Gentlemen Car Show Exhibiiton @ MSC Outside Lawn</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. History Club Black History Film Screening @ New Science Rm. A103</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Seminar: Financial Forti- tude @ New Science Rm. 104</p> <p>7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Iota Phi Theta What Is An Iota Phi Theta? @ New Science Rm. 101</p>	<p>12 p.m. - 10 p.m. University Village Field Day @ Intramural Field</p> <p>3 p.m. - 10 p.m. Army ROTC Annual Military Ball @ MSC Ballroom A&amp;B</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha Social "Pamper Me Pink" @ University Village Clubhouse III</p> <p>7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Gamma Phi Delta Christian Talent Show: Lifting Up Jesus' Name @ Hobart Taylor Recital Hall</p>	<p>9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pre-Dental Club Dental Impression Seminar @ New Science Bldg. Rm. 104</p> <p>9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Woman To Woman Forum, @ MSC Ballroom</p> <p>10 a.m. - 5 p.m. PALS Picnic @ Student Park</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Lone Star Charity Basketball Game @ Baby Dome</p>	<p>3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Freshmen Experience @ UC Auditorium</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. PEACE Project Lecture @ New Science Rm. A101</p>	<p>8 a.m. - 5 p.m. PEACE Project National Crime Victims Rights Week Art Exhibit @ Library Rm. 109</p> <p>8 a.m. - 11:55 p.m. SGA PV Choice Awards Social @ MSC Ballroom</p> <p>3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Campus Clean Up @ Water Fountain</p> <p>7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Alpha Lambda Omega Informational Seminar @ New Science Rm. A101</p> <p>7:25 p.m. - 9 p.m. Xi Delta Chi Seminar @ Library Rm.</p>	<p>6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Catholic Newman Associa- tion Station of the Cross @ New Science Rm. 103</p> <p>9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Human Resources Financial Fair @ MSC Ballroom</p> <p>11 a.m. - 3 p.m. PEACE Project Open House &amp; Art Exhibit @ Library Rm. 108</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Gamma Sigma Sigma Seminar @ New Science Rm. 101</p>	<p>10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Health &amp; Counseling Blood Drive @ MSC Ballroom Section A</p> <p>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. CAB Hump Day @ Alumni Field</p> <p>5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Catholic Newman Associa- tion Catholic Mass @ Univer- sity College Auditorium</p> <p>6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Gamma Sigma Sigma Seminar @ New Science Rm. 101</p>
Plenty of Sunshine High: 83 °F Low: 61 °F	Partly sunny and breezy High: 83 °F Low: 63 °F	Mostly sunny High: 81 °F Low: 65 °F	Partly sunny and breezy High: 81 °F Low: 65 °F	Mostly cloudy and breezy High: 81 °F Low: 67 °F	Rain High: 77 °F Low: 53 °F	Sunshine High: 76 °F Low: 60 °F